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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 13 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to address you in your capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in order to convey to you my deepest concern about the fact that the authorities of the host country, in an arbitrary and unjustifiable manner, have denied the request made by Juana Elena Ramos Rodriguez, Counsellor, and Ismara Vargas Walter, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, to travel beyond the 25-mile radius from Columbus Circle in New York City, in order to participate in the informal meeting of the Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein and open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations, to be held from 11 to 14 June 2007, at Princeton University, New Jersey.

We once more regret that the host country authorities have continued to deny Cuban diplomats, on certain occasions, requests to travel to attend forums and meetings related to the United Nations or organized by missions accredited to the Organization on items that are debated on its agenda, held beyond the 25-mile radius, which is a limit imposed on the general rule of free movement of diplomats.

This practice places the officials of the Cuban Mission in a disadvantageous position with regard to the negotiation, consideration and document adoption processes.

The policy of applying movement restrictions to Cuban diplomats and international officials with Cuban citizenship accredited to the United Nations or who work in the Organization is unjust, selective, discriminatory and politically motivated, which contravenes the obligations of the host country contained in the Headquarters Agreement, as well as the provisions of the international legal instruments on diplomatic privileges and immunities to which the United States is a State party. Likewise, they are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character of 14 March 1975.

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We once more urge the host country to reconsider its position on the issues we have pointed out, according to the general principles of international law of equality and non-discrimination.

I also have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country of an item related to the circulation restrictions imposed by the host country on certain permanent missions accredited to the United Nations, including the Permanent Mission of Cuba.

I would very much appreciate it if this letter would be distributed as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative